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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development for East Timor

Report of the Secretary-General*

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* The footnote requested by the General Assembly in resolution 54/248 was not included in the submission.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 54/96 H of 15 December 1999, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution. The report covers developments immediately prior and subsequent to the passing of Security Council resolution 1272 (1999) of 25 October 1999, by which the Council established the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) with three components, a governance and public administration component, a humanitarian assistance and emergency rehabilitation component and a military component. On 8 November 1999, I appointed Sergio Vieira de Mello as my Special Representative in East Timor and Transitional Administrator.

II. Background

2. The outbreak of violence that occurred in the aftermath of the Popular Consultation of 30 August 1999 resulted in widespread destruction throughout the territory and the internal and external displacement of 75 per cent of the population of East Timor. General services were completely disrupted and displaced and returning populations throughout the territory found themselves confronted by a lack of food, water, shelter and medical services.

3. The establishment of the multinational peacekeeping force (INTERFET), mandated by the Security Council in resolution 1264 (1999) of 15 September 1999, resulted in the restoration of a secure working environment and enabled the delivery of immediate humanitarian assistance throughout the territory, through the collective efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, INTERFET and donors. The effectiveness of these interventions was enhanced by effective coordination between INTERFET and the humanitarian community. The exercise was further characterized by a spirit of collaboration and commitment among participating humanitarian organizations.

4. In recognition of the need to ensure the early phase-in of development activities, a joint assessment mission, comprising experts from United Nations agencies, the East Timorese community, donors, the European Commission, the Asian Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund and led by the World Bank, took place mid-October to mid-November 1999. The mission identified priority short-term reconstruction needs and provided estimates of external financing requirements, using a comprehensive development framework approach which covered eight different sectors. An overview of the mission's findings was presented at a donor conference convened under the auspices of the Government of Japan in Tokyo, on 15 and 16 December 1999. The Tokyo donor conference was co-chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Vice-President of the World Bank for Asia and the Pacific. The amount of external financing requirements presented for humanitarian, reconstruction and development activities for East Timor was US$ 878.3 million over a three-year period. The total pledged at the Conference was US$ 522.4 million, of which US$ 148.9 million was for humanitarian assistance and US$ 373.4 million for development activities. A follow-up conference was organized on 23 June 2000, hosted by the Government of Portugal and co-chaired by the World Bank and UNTAET. Donors expressed support for the activities of the Trust Fund for East Timor, administered by the World Bank, and endorsed a work programme for the period from July to December 2000.

5. In order to address emergency needs, the humanitarian community agreed upon a series of common guidelines for priority intervention. This process was facilitated in the early stages of the humanitarian crisis by the Humanitarian Coordinator, ad interim, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Subsequently, responsibility was transferred, effective 1 January 2000, to the UNTAET humanitarian assistance and emergency rehabilitation component, under the leadership of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

6. The common guidelines served as the basis for the activities of more than 200 humanitarian actors (United Nations agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations, ICRC and local church organizations) from September 1999 through June 2000. The priorities set were: to assist refugees to

return from West Timor; to ensure food security through the provision of food assistance and seeds and tools; to provide primary health care in all rural and urban areas; to provide potable water and sanitation; to reconstruct 35,000 homes; and to facilitate community development and economic recovery through emergency repairs to infrastructure (in particular power stations), reopening of schools, launching of microcredit programmes, establishment of psychosocial trauma counselling and implementation of community reconciliation projects.

7. In tandem, agencies also recognized the need for the early development of strategies to ensure the smooth transition of activities from those of a relief nature to programmes aimed at longer-term development. The humanitarian guiding principles also provided for the transfer of sectoral coordination responsibilities from the humanitarian agencies to departments within UNTAET as programme emphasis shifted from emergency relief to interventions oriented towards sustainable development. With the transfer of these responsibilities now complete, UNTAET departments have established the necessary capacities to ensure the coordination of their respective sectoral activities.

III. Review of major humanitarian developments

8. Humanitarian programmes in East Timor have been marked by the full commitment of participating agencies and organizations to a coordinated and integrated response to the crisis. Humanitarian organizations and agencies provided assistance across all humanitarian sectors, as INTERFET established a safe, secure environment for humanitarian operators. The quick donor response to the needs of humanitarian partners, both financially and through in-kind contributions, allowed organizations and agencies to deliver urgently required materials, equipment and supplies before the situation of affected populations worsened.

9. In particular, the close collaboration between civilian partners and military forces contributed to the overall success of the humanitarian effort in East Timor. INTERFET managed quickly to access areas that were remote and difficult to reach and identified and provided valuable information on the condition of affected populations. In many instances, INTERFET provided immediate relief assistance as it deployed. Humanitarian organizations and agencies subsequently followed and provided additional support.

10. With the handover of peacekeeping responsibilities from INTERFET to the UNTAET military component in February 2000, UNTAET assumed responsibilities to provide logistical support, services for the repair and rehabilitation of roads, assistance in health services and school construction, and information on the humanitarian conditions in areas that are difficult to access.

IV. Sector requirements and assistance provided by the United Nations and its partners

A. Food security

11. The violence that followed the Popular Consultation of 30 August 1999 caused a critical disruption in economic activity and agricultural production. On the whole, foodstocks and livestock were looted or seriously damaged, leading to major shortages throughout the territory.

12. An emergency food assistance operation was initiated in mid-September 1999 as an immediate response to food aid needs, in line with Security Council resolution 1264 (1999). Under this operation, for which total requirements were 8,333 metric tonnes of food products valued at US$ 5.6 million, the World Food Programme (WFP) and its implementing partners provided immediate assistance to 150,000 beneficiaries located in the worst affected areas of East Timor.

13. The initial objective of the intervention was to ensure that adequate nutrition was provided to those who had temporarily lost all means of self-support. Special emphasis was given to returnees and displaced persons and to the establishment of a social safety net for other vulnerable groups. During the period from September 1999 through June 2000, WFP distributed more than 27,000 metric tonnes of food, and ICRC and CARE International distributed an additional 11,000 metric tonnes through general food distributions and targeted feeding programmes.

14. Although the basic objective of ensuring food security remains, WFP and its food programme

partners have been moving into the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase of their operations and have begun using food as a catalyst for rehabilitation activities through food-for-work projects, school feeding programmes and teacher incentives. Planning of future interventions in East Timor will be aimed at both the short and longer term. The establishment of the Vulnerability Assessment Mapping unit and the strengthening of monitoring and assessment capacities will allow for refined targeting and the improved impact of food programming. Recent mission reports by WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank, coupled with the emerging food policy framework of UNTAET, should ensure effective strategies for current and future interventions.

15. An initial food and crop assessment conducted by FAO and WFP in December 1999 indicated that the agricultural production prognosis for 2000, estimated at 40 per cent to 50 per cent of the average annual production, would be surpassed. The revised anticipated maize harvest yields for April and May are projected to be 70 per cent of the established average. The increase was a direct result of a successful emergency seed and tool distribution and is testimony to the resilience of the East Timorese farmers.

16. Despite the improved food supply situation, FAO and WFP stress that disruptions experienced in the economy, especially in market infrastructure and market access, the loss of productive assets and diminished activities for income-generation, will mean that significant numbers of people will remain vulnerable to food insecurity during the remaining months of 2000 and the pre-harvest months of 2001.

17. To address the needs of the next agricultural season, FAO, in close collaboration with the UNTAET Department of Agriculture, has planted locally adapted varieties of maize and improved varieties of rice seed during the dry season so as to increase the supply of seed for the main planting season in November. The seed is intended for returning refugee farmers and local farmers who have lost their stocks of seed during the past year.

18. While some support to the agricultural sector is being provided by a number of donors, governmental aid agencies, FAO, UNTAET and non-governmental organizations, a shortfall in assistance to agriculture, livestock and fisheries is anticipated for the coming season. Food security needs beyond the harvest in March and April 2001 are consequently subject to successful preparations for planting at the end of 2000.

B. Health

19. The wanton destruction of public and private infrastructure is also evident in the deterioration of the majority of health facilities in East Timor. Moreover, the flight of doctors and core health professionals (many of them Indonesian nationals) who had provided curative and public health services, has left a dearth of trained personnel in the sector.

20. Within days of the deployment of INTERFET, ICRC and 15 international non-governmental organizations, together with military medical teams from INTERFET, began to provide health services to the general population. In addition, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided standard medical kits adequate for the treatment of 620,000 persons for three months and coordinated the work of international non-governmental organizations working in the sector.

21. The collaboration among UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), international non-governmental organizations and ICRC ensured that immunization teams were deployed at entry points for returning refugees. This effort, combined with support to immunization services elsewhere in the country, resulted in more than 55,000 children being immunized against measles in October 1999. This action contributed significantly to the effective control and prevention of widespread disease outbreaks and eventually led to the re-establishment of the regular immunization programme in March 2000.

22. Other emergency preventive measures included the distribution of more than 90,000 mosquito nets, believed to have contributed to mitigating, but not eliminating, the high incidence of serious malaria and dengue fever. The provision by the United Nations Population Fund of reproductive health kits of drugs and medical supplies ensured a basic supply was on hand for clean and safe child delivery. The early provision of food assistance, including supplementary foods, was critical in preventing malnutrition and reducing the incidence of illnesses related to inadequate diet.

23. Some 320,000 health consultations were monitored by the surveillance system set up by the World Health Organization and currently maintained by the Interim Health Authority of UNTAET. Of these consultations, more than 80,000 cases of malaria, 27,000 cases of lower respiratory tract infection, 22,400 and 4,100 cases of, respectively, simple and bloody diarrhoea, 900 cases of suspected measles and 300 cases of suspected meningitis were recorded. The communicable disease surveillance network also identified, for the first time in East Timor, cases of Japanese encephalitis and cutaneous leishmaniasis.

24. At the early stages of implementation of the humanitarian programmes, agencies agreed on the need to shift from emergency to rehabilitation and development so as to ensure the establishment of sustainable health structures in the territory and the establishment of long-term health policies. The creation of the national Interim Health Authority signalled the general agreement of all health actors to change the focus of the health community. Other initiatives have been the establishment of a central pharmacy, the development of a national essential drugs list, the renewed emphasis given to child, adolescent, women's and reproductive health services, and the establishment of a national disease surveillance system. Significant progress has also been made in the establishment of a national tuberculosis programme with more than 1,300 tubercular patients currently receiving treatment. By the end of 2000, the programme will be progressively extended to cover all 13 districts of East Timor. Programmes concentrating on safe motherhood, adolescent health, planned parenthood, sexual health and the prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases including human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), are also being implemented under the Interim Health Authority. A nutrition surveillance programme for children under five years of age has been established by UNICEF and Action contre la faim.

25. Human resource issues, in particular the loss of a large number of medical doctors and most senior and middle-level health service managers, have major implications for the future functioning of health services. The Interim Health Authority, together with health programme participants, will provide technical support and training to develop further the health sector.

C. Education

26. Schools in East Timor were severely damaged and materials and equipment looted from nearly all establishments during the destruction that swept the territory in September 1999. In addition, many qualified teachers left the territory in the wake of the pro-independence outcome of the ballot.

27. Nonetheless, soon after the deployment of INTERFET and the establishment of secure zones, primary schools were reopened and classes convened in open playgrounds and in buildings intended for other purposes. For the school year 1999/2000, the efforts of UNICEF, WFP and a number of non-governmental organizations, focused on incentives to ensure the return of primary schoolteachers and the supply and distribution of education materials to all districts. The rehabilitation of schools and teacher training raised the number of children enrolled in primary schools to 170,000 (compared with 167,000 in the previous school year 1998/1999). Prior to the Popular Consultation, approximately 800 primary schools were in operation. As at December 1999, the number of open primary schools was only 420. By the end of May 2000, that number had risen to 752.

28. The re-establishment of education in East Timor has also been reinforced through the creation of education committees, comprising local teachers and representatives of church and political organizations, in all districts and subdistricts of the territory. To complement academic support programmes, humanitarian agencies and donors have provided and distributed educational and recreational supplies, destined for both primary school students and their teachers.

29. In the current phase marking the transition from relief to development, humanitarian actors and the military component will continue to work closely with the Department of Education, with UNTAET assuming responsibility for functions previously administered by humanitarian agencies in the education sector.

30. Construction materials (galvanized iron sheets, nails, cement and timber) sufficient for approximately 250 classrooms have also been delivered. To date, INTERFET, United States Navy and local communities have repaired more than 40 schools, comprising some 200 classrooms. A second distribution of building materials to rehabilitate an additional 1,200 classrooms

was begun in June. Completion is anticipated by the end of the year.

31. In addition to pedagogical materials and rehabilitation of infrastructure, emphasis is being placed on teacher training. A programme for in-service training of primary schoolteachers was initiated on 1 May, and training for some 2,000 teachers in East Timor is planned in the near future.

32. In contrast to the resurrection of primary education in East Timor, higher education has effectively ceased. Approximately 80 per cent of secondary teachers were Indonesian, as were most staff of the Department of Education and allied training institutes. They have left the territory and the majority are not expected to return.

33. The worst affected victims of the violence in East Timor have been children. While the re-establishment of schools has diminished the impact of the trauma incurred during the violent aftermath of the Popular Consultation, many children continue to suffer the psychological effects of their exposure to conflict. In the light of this, agencies have begun a needs assessment, including consultation and partnership-building with local and international counterparts, to identify four principal project areas in child rights and protection: child-friendly spaces; psychosocial support; awareness of children's and women's rights; and the development of law, policy and structures for the protection of children's and women's rights.

34. Psychosocial support is being provided through Forum Kumunikasi Perempuan Lorosae (FOKUPERS), a local non-governmental organization that has re-established a women's shelter at Dili. The group has been carrying out psychosocial support and counselling for children and women who are victims of violence and sexual abuse.

35. Future activities will concentrate on capacity-building. This will be implemented through youth groups, religious affiliates and women's groups and will develop governance, management and life skills and awareness of humanitarian principles and human rights.

D. Repatriation of refugees

36. The organized voluntary repatriation of East Timorese refugees commenced in October 1999. Since that time, some 167,000 persons have returned in an orderly and dignified manner, including the return of some former members of the Indonesian armed forces and militia. Of the total number of returnees, some 44,000 have returned home spontaneously across land borders. The remainder have been assisted in land, sea and air operations conducted by UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and their implementing partners. As part of the repatriation efforts, family reunions at border crossings, arranged by the UNTAET military observer group, UNHCR and IOM, have enabled thousands of refugees to meet with returnees and others in order to facilitate the exchange of first-hand information about the situation in East Timor and to build confidence for their return. UNHCR has also conducted mass information campaigns on both sides of the Timor border to promote voluntary repatriation and reintegration, with a special focus on the complex issue of reconciliation.

37. Since the beginning of 2000, however, there has been a significant decline in the rate of returns from West Timor, with only 42,000 persons having been repatriated since January. Since the first week of August, there have been almost no land returns to East Timor, and family reunion meetings at the border have been suspended. There has also been a serious escalation in violence and attacks on humanitarian workers. At Atambua, the IOM compound was targeted during a 12 August 2000 demonstration by the militia, with no intercession by the Indonesian armed forces or police. Subsequently, UNHCR, IOM and a non-governmental organization relocated most of their staff to Kupang. On 22 August 2000, militia attacked and seriously injured three UNHCR staff delivering humanitarian assistance to a refugee camp at Naen, in the vicinity of Oecussi. On 6 September 2000, in an attack on United Nations premises at Atambua, three UNHCR workers were brutally killed by rampaging militia elements. The United Nations premises where they had sought refuge were overrun and burned to the ground. This, coupled with continued harassment of the staff in the United Nations office at Kupang, has resulted in the total suspension of United Nations operations and the evacuation of all United Nations staff and international non-governmental organization workers from West Timor.

38. As at September 2000, the number of East Timorese refugees in West Timor is estimated at between 100,000 and 120,000. Most of these refugees

are farmers, although there remains a significant minority of ex-civil servants (including former members of the police and Indonesian armed forces). The presence of ex-militia elements and leaders with a strong pro-autonomy stance in the refugee camps has led to continued intimidation and misinformation campaigns against return. Individual refugees cite uncertainties of physical and political security and concerns about their household and food security as the main impediments to their return. The presence of groups of the ex-militia has been the major impediment to the effective carrying out of activities by the humanitarian workers in the camps. With the suspension of operations, it is difficult to determine how many refugees will choose to remain in West Timor. Some estimates suggest that upwards of 30,000 persons may eventually seek local or transmigration options offered by the Indonesian authorities.

39. It must be accepted that much of the remaining caseload will never return and alternative means of resettling these people must be found, in collaboration with the responsible Indonesian authorities. The presence of large numbers of refugees from East Timor continues to lead to discontent in local communities. Recent clashes between the local population and refugees are indications of the current strain in intercommunal relations, which will likely deteriorate further and result in renewed violence, unless decisive action is taken by the Indonesian authorities.

E. Cooperation between civilian partners and the military

40. Although the responsibility of the UNTAET military component under the mandate of Security Council resolution 1272 (1999) is first and foremost to ensure the stability and security of East Timor, it has provided strong support to humanitarian activities, as did INTERFET. The main humanitarian efforts of the UNTAET military component have been the provision of medical assistance, the provision of logistical support to other UNTAET components, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, the rehabilitation of schools and other public infrastructure, and the conduct of sports, recreational and educational activities for the East Timorese people. In all districts, the UNTAET staff dealing with civil and military affairs have worked closely with district administrations to provide the needed assistance. One of the most significant contributions made by both INTERFET and the UNTAET military component in the humanitarian effort has been the provision of logistical support for the movement by land, sea and air of supplies and materials, in particular to the Oecussi enclave. The UNTAET military component also provides engineering support to the other UNTAET components and the humanitarian and development communities.

41. Support has also been extended by the UNTAET military component in all districts in terms of sports facilities and equipment, film shows, language classes and vocational and skills training. Moreover, all military medical facilities have been made accessible to the East Timorese people and by the end of May 2000, UNTAET military medical units had treated 20,257 members of the East Timorese population.

F. Coordination

42. In the complex emergency that confronted East Timor immediately following the Popular Consultation, the consolidated and collaborative effort among humanitarian agencies and the military forces of INTERFET was decisive in avoiding a humanitarian catastrophe by ensuring the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout the territory.

43. The coordination of the humanitarian response in East Timor was initially led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and saw the mass deployment of staff of United Nations agencies and of non-governmental organizations to areas of the greatest humanitarian concern. Effective interaction with INTERFET was an imperative condition for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, since security in the early stages of the humanitarian programme was defined by the deployment of INTERFET troops and the establishment of secure zones for operations.

44. On 1 January 2000, responsibility for the coordination of humanitarian activities was passed from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to the UNTAET humanitarian assistance and emergency rehabilitation component. The full transition was realized with the assumption of duties by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for humanitarian assistance and emergency rehabilitation.

45. In the ensuing months, with the firm establishment of technical agencies in humanitarian sectors and the evolution of UNTAET sector departments, responsibility for coordination in those sectors was assumed by the respective agencies.

46. An evaluation of the humanitarian programme was conducted in April and May 2000, in three phases: self-assessment by humanitarian programme implementers; beneficiary assessment by national non-governmental organizations; and an external evaluation by a team of donor and independent consultants. This resulted in the compilation of an inventory of the achievements of the humanitarian programme by sector, and a compendium of best practice for use in future interventions. Both the successes and the shortcomings of the humanitarian operation were identified; this afforded humanitarian programme implementers the opportunity to examine the impact of their respective programmes and direct their future plans accordingly.

47. The overall conclusion of the review was that humanitarian assistance was in general delivered in a timely and effective manner. A lesson learned was the need to improve consultation with the beneficiaries and local civil leaders at the beginning of such operations. The review also served as a preliminary account to donors on funds spent in the period from October 1999 to April 2000. Financial tracking across agencies revealed that 79 per cent of funds received (US$ 150 million) had been spent and that, of this amount, 59 per cent had been spent on food assistance, repatriation of refugees and shelter support. Two thirds of the funds received were contributed by means of the consolidated appeal process. Funds have been spent evenly across the 13 districts of East Timor, each accounting for 6 per cent to 8 per cent of the humanitarian budget, with the exception of the Dili district, which received 13 per cent of all funds dispersed.

48. With the establishment of oversight capacities within the respective departments of UNTAET, responsibility for coordination within sectors was passed from humanitarian agencies to UNTAET which establishes the policies and strategies for East Timor. The food and shelter sectors, however, continue to be coordinated by WFP and UNHCR, respectively.

49. The UNTAET humanitarian assistance and emergency rehabilitation component continues to hold regular coordination meetings with organizations and agencies participating in the humanitarian programme and also with those involved in development activities.

50. The full transfer of humanitarian coordination from the humanitarian assistance and emergency rehabilitation component to an office within the new structure of the Transitional Administration will occur by the end of 2000. The humanitarian assistance and emergency rehabilitation component has presented a proposal, which is to be reviewed by the National Legislative Council, for the full handover of its responsibilities to a combination of offices in UNTAET and the Office of the United Nations Development Coordinator by 31 December 2000.

51. A Liaison Office for non-governmental organizations was established in the early stages of the crisis to ensure access by international and national non-governmental organizations to information from other humanitarian actors, donors and INTERFET. With a limited number of national non-governmental organizations having operated in East Timor prior to the events of 1999, special attention has been given to the creation of a forum for non-governmental organizations, which supports capacity-building in local development non-governmental organizations. Managerial responsibilities for the forum will have been fully assumed by East Timorese by the end of September 2000.

G. Community development, economic recovery and rehabilitation

52. The devastation in East Timor affected all aspects of life in the country. For the population to recover successfully, a number of programmes, both short-term and longer-term, have been initiated. The temporary employment programme of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the community empowerment programme of the World Bank and interventions by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have contributed in different ways to the recovery of enterprise and market activity. Quick impact projects for employment and income-generation, sponsored by the UNTAET Trust Fund, UNHCR and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, have provided solutions in an environment of high unemployment and limited opportunity that will lead to

the promotion of productive economic activity in the short term.

53. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has developed a plan of action for the rehabilitation and management of key infrastructure in East Timor and, with funding from Australia, Canada, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, has carried out repairs to power stations at Dili and Maliana. It also enacted emergency road repairs in the Ermera and Dili districts. With funding from the Governments of Japan and Portugal, UNDP and the United Nations Office for Project Services are undertaking a large-scale infrastructure rehabilitation programme, costing US$ 30 million over three years, which was started in July 2000.

54. Water systems in East Timor, while damaged during the destruction in September 1999, were actually more the result of poor planning, inadequate maintenance and minimal investment by previous governments. The response of the international community during the period of crisis, and in particular by OXFAM Great Britain and Action contre la faim, was to provide an immediate supply of water in areas in which the population concentration was greatest. As the overall humanitarian situation stabilizes and UNTAET assumes responsibilities for urban water supply networks, additional emphasis is being placed by non-governmental organizations, with the endorsement and encouragement of UNTAET, on the rehabilitation of rural water supplies.

55. Sanitation needs in the territory still must be properly addressed. The newly established water and sanitation office of the transitional Government, with support from UNICEF and non-governmental organizations, will mobilize sanitation engineers who will provide information and materials to improve sanitation in 56 villages. Rural water supplies will also be developed, in particular by applying appropriate rainwater collection techniques.

56. Considering the relatively limited experience and technical expertise of indigenous actors, UNTAET, United Nations agencies, donors and non-governmental organizations are focusing their efforts on capacity-building for East Timorese in all sectors of humanitarian and development intervention. Basic training in the rule of law and human rights has been organized for judicial officials. At the request of UNTAET, UNDP has prepared a comprehensive programme proposal for future capacity-building in the area of governance and public administration. The UNICEF capacity-building project seeks to help develop East Timorese management and leadership skills, stressing reconciliation and respect for human rights. In cooperation with AusAID, training in leadership, with an emphasis on child rights, has been given to members of the National Council of Timorese Resistance. Support has been provided to improve management within the largest national non-governmental organization in East Timor, Timor Aid, with which UNICEF works to rebuild schools. UNICEF is also involving youth groups in reconciliation and reconstruction by encouraging participation in sport activities.

57. With the immediate humanitarian crisis over, United Nations agencies are orienting the bulk of their activities towards rehabilitation and longer-term development, in line with their respective mandates. The United Nations Development Coordinator has initiated a common country assessment, which will assist in ensuring a common strategy and vision.

58. Development programmes planned by the United Nations agencies and IOM include the initiation of new projects for the period from July 2000 to June 2001, at a projected estimated cost of US$ 48 million. In the future, United Nations agencies will provide development assistance in the areas of basic services, rehabilitation of social infrastructure, governance and capacity-building, employment and enterprise development, and training, agricultural and rural development, sustainable livelihoods and community development, and the conduct of a population census.

59. As at June 2000, an estimated US$ 33.7 million was available through United Nations agency funding or commitments already made by donors for community development, economic recovery and rehabilitation. In addition, it is envisaged that, in consultation with UNTAET and the East Timorese leadership, United Nations agencies will develop new programmes and priority projects which may entail additional funding requirements.

V. Concluding observations

60. The difficulties presented by the massive displacement and widespread destruction which took place during the violence that erupted after the Popular

Consultation of 30 August 1999 have been overcome in large part owing to the rapid and generous response of donors to the needs emanating from the crisis. With these resources, the humanitarian community was able to provide the necessary assistance at an early enough stage to prevent the deterioration of the physical condition of the beneficiary population. These factors, along with the resilience and determination of the East Timorese people, have militated against the creation of a dependency cycle and have contributed to the maintenance of human dignity among the East Timorese. Also important for the transition from relief to development has been an acknowledgement by all humanitarian partners that the focus must be on rehabilitation and development issues, while addressing residual humanitarian concerns. The continuing engagement of the international community will be required for the foreseeable future in all sectors in order to ensure that the programmes continue to benefit the people of East Timor and pave the way to self-reliance and sustainable development.